mixed ſpecies of animals. I believe, that two ſpecies widely different from each other, as water-fowl and land-birds, *&c.* cannot poſſibly conjoin, ſo as to produce a living mixed offspring. I have been informed, and believe it may be true, that a mixed ſpecies has been produced between our common poultry, and partridges that harbour near farm-yards.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt humble

and obedient ſervant,

London, May 22, 1760. Geo. Edwards.

LXXII. *An Account of a late Diſcovery of Aſbeſtos in* France: *In a Letter to the Rev.* Tho. Birch, *D. D. Secretary to the Royal Society, from Mr.* Turberville Needham, *F. R. S.*

Reverend Sir,

Read June 5, 1760. I Have little to add in the way of literature, except a ſingular diſcovery accidentally made, lately, in one of the French provinces, of the nature of the aſbeſtos, or amianthus. The proprietor of a certain forge, upon taking down his furnaces to repair them, found a great quantity of this ſubſtance at the bottom. It anſwered effectually all the common uſes of the native amianthus, either

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manufactured into linen, or paper. In ſhort, upon a progreſs in this inquiry, he finds, that both this, which he obtained from his forge, and the native aſbeſtos, is nothing more, as he terms it, than calcined iron, deprived of the phlogiſtic; and that, by uniting the phlogiſtic, either with this, or the foſſile amianthus, he can reſtore it, at any time, to its primitive ſtate of iron. Does not this, with the diſcovery of lava, pummice-ſtones, iron in a perfect ſtate, and, in fine, many other traces of fire obſerved in moſt of the mountains, particularly in all the great chains, and remarkably in all thoſe under the equator, which are the higheſt upon the globe, ſeem to indicate, that the dry land, with all its eminencies, was originally raiſed out of the waters, by the force of ſubterraneous fire?

I am,

With great reſpect and eſteem,

Reverend Sir,

Your moſt obedient,

humble ſervant,

Paris, May 17, 1760. T. Needham.